AN ACCOUNT OF SOME Late Designs

To Create a Misunderstanding betwixt the KING and his PEOPLE;

And to Subvert the

ENGLISH Constitution,

By Exalting the Prerogative, and Rendering Parliaments Useless.

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

ACCOUNT

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AN

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WE have many Instances in History, how the Kings of *England* have endeavour'd to enslave their People; but no Reign, except the present, affords an Instance, that the People endeavoured to enslave themselves, and combin'd to the subversion of their own Rights and Privileges. For certainly such Men as spirit a People against their own Representatives, can mean nothing but the Destruction of our Constitution; and this was the most horrid Plot that was ever yet hatch'd, to engage Men to make an actual Surrender of their Liberties, which no King yet could obtain by Force. We never yet wanted in *England* a Party to promote Arbi-

trary Designs, and the *French* Methods having fail'd them in preceding Reigns, they now try what they can make of the Examples of *Sweden* and *Denmark*, and do endeavour to have the People believe, they lie under a fatal Necessity of parting with their Parliamentary Rights to preserve their Country.

We cannot consider, without the greatest amazement, how far this wicked Design work'd it self into the Fancy of the common People the last Sessions, whose Forefathers struggl'd so hard to leave them in possession of their Rights; and we our selves have but lately been at the Expence of a Revolution to keep them: And who could imagine that Men who pretended such a forwardness in the Revolution, should in a few Years after make a Party to give away those Rights for which our Forefathers and our selves have suffered so much to maintain? Certainly a disinterested By-stander, to see a Cause of this Nature advanc'd by a free People, must conclude them to be under the Judgment of a popular Frenzy; for Men in their right Senses would never petition for Chains and Fetters, and labour to enslave themselves. One would pity Men in Distraction to see them cut and wound themselves;

ſelves; but when they *Run a Muck*, and kill other People, they ought to be laid under Reſtraint; and therefore the Temper and Patience of the laſt Parliament was very conſiderable, in not puniſhing to the utmoſt degree thoſe Impudent Invaders of the Rights of the moſt Auguſt and Powerful Senate in the Univerſe.

To make Parliaments uſeleſs has been the Deſign and Plot of a Party of Men among us ever ſince the Revolution; nor have they fail'd of embracing every Advantage which happn'd for that purpoſe. Indeed their Attempt in getting a Standing Army proving Abortive, their Deſigns were ſomewhat retarded; but the laſt Seſſions they again appear'd under other Colours, they had engag'd a Scoundrel Party to hang out their Flag of Defiance againſt their own Repreſentatives, and ſeditious Clamours and Noiſes againſt the Parliament were ſpread throughout the whole Kingdom. Theſe Clamours and Noiſes were but as ſo many Trumpets of Rebellion to gather the Zealous Mob together, and to know how many could diſtinguiſh the Sound: The Heads of the Party thinking themſelves ſecure of Numbers, begin to marſhal their Men,

Men, not into Regiments but *Legions*; these are again divided into small Detachments, some of which are to libel the Parliament, others are to rendezvouze at Coffee-houses, and there rail, and lye, and vilify and asperse such leading Members in the House as are most in the Interest of their Country. Every one of these Divisions had an Orderly Man appointed, whose business every day was, to come to their main Guard at the *R*-----*r*, and there give an Account how the People listed, and to receive Orders: So that the Cause now began to move pretty well within the Lines of Communication. And to spirit the People in the Country against the Parliament, was the Post of the chief Traders, so that not a Bill of Parcels went into the Country without a parcel of Faction against the Parliament. There never yet was a Plot without a Priest in the Conspiracy: some of the Dissenting Preachers were easily engaged in this Design, they animated their People in the Cause, who believe with an implicit Faith. At that time I heard one of their Preachers tell a great many Lies to God Almighty in his Prayers against the Parliament; He complain'd that *the Parliament retarded the King's Business*, that *they sought*

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not the Good of the Nation, &c. So that this Parliament, which did the beſt Service to their Country that could be, had railing Accuſations brought againſt them both before God and the People.

Things being now ripe for Action, 'twas thought fit to let the Parliament know what the Reſentment of the Nation was (for theſe People had the Impudence to call themſelves *the whole Nation*) and this was done by a Petition from the Quarter-Seſſions for the County of *Kent*: But this Petition was worded after ſo inſolent and ſawcy a manner, that it was not fit to be delivered to a Petty Jury in an Inferior Court. The Parliament in vindication of their own Rights, committed the Perſons, for their Inſolence, that delivered the Petition, to the Cuſtody of the Serjeant at Arms attending their Houſe. This gave new Life to their Cauſe. The Partys committed were daily viſited by the Faction. Now all the Clamour and Noiſe about Town and Country, was the Injuſtice they had done the Petitioners by committing them, whom the Faction in a Libel ſent to the Speaker, and ſubſcribed *Legion*, call'd their Maſters. Now all the Factious Tribe are quite run mad,

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here's Slavery under a Parliament which is intolerable; and they were so angry at the very Idols that their own Hands had set up, that they were for pulling our Constitution to the Ground, and razing the very Name of a House of Commons out of our Laws and Historys; nay, I have heard 'em say, that they hop'd this would be the last Parliament should be seen in *England*, and that it would never be well for the Nation till the King had the Power to act at his own Discretion, without being embarras'd with so troublesome a Body as that of the House of Commons: And all the Libels they wrote at that time, and since the rising of that Parliament, have tended to no other purpose; for they did not so much strike at any particular Members of that House, or any singular Grievance they had occasioned, as at the very Essence and Being of Parliaments.

The *Kentish Petitioners* being thus favoured with the good Opinion of the *Gaderene* Mob, and finding that the Parliament was notoriously libell'd upon their Account, they thought, having insulted the Masters, they might affront their Servant; and hereupon they behaved themselves after so insolent a manner

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manner to the Serjeant at Arms, whoſe Priſoners they were, that the Serjeant was forc'd to complain to the Houſe. Which Carriage of theirs the Houſe ſo far reſented, as to commit them to ſafer Cuſtody in the *Gatehouſe*. This gave a new occaſion of railing, and prov'd as Oil to the Wheels of their Plot; they mov'd with all the Fury in the World, except open Force; and had their Courage been proportionable to their Malice, it muſt have neceſſarily concluded in an open Rupture.

For no ſooner aroſe the Difference betwixt the Houſe of Lords and the Houſe of Commons, about the Impeachments of the Lords Partitioners; but the *Legionites* ſtruck in with the former, tho they were a Body of another Nature, and only repreſented themſelves in Parliament. But theſe Men laid hold on all Advantages they thought might aſſiſt them in blaſting the Reputation of the Commons, in order to render them uſeleſs in the Opinions of the unthinking Mob.

Under theſe Inconveniences did this good Parliament labour; being at one time affronted by thoſe who ought to venture Life and Limb in their Vindication, and to juſtify their own Rights of Impeachment: yet with more

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than a Roman Bravery they rode out all the Storms of Inveterate Malice, and like true *Engliſh* Men, as indeed they were, they defended their own and their Peoples Rights to the laſt Day of their ſitting.

Before I proceed to give a further Account of the Steps the *Legionites* took to ruin this Parliament, I muſt crave leave to ſay ſomething in Vindication of that truly Honourable and Auguſt Aſſembly, who as they are now the juſt Object of the Love of all good Men living, ſo will their Names be ſacred to Poſterity, and the Children yet unborn will pay a venerable Reſpect to their Memories. And for what Reaſons ſoever they were at laſt diſſolved, yet this preſent Parliament, in their firſt Addreſs to his Majeſty, gave that Parliament a juſt and honourable Character, and do never mention them but with a profound Reſpect.

The Ground of the *Legionites* Quarrel againſt that Parliament, was their not proclaiming of War againſt *France*: Tho every body knows 'tis none of the Parliament's Buſineſs to proclaim War. And how could they adviſe the King, as they were the Grand Council of the Nation, in an Affair of that Nature, when they

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they knew not what Treaties his Majesty had entered into, nor upon what Foot *England* stood with the rest of the Allies? What, said the *Legionites*, will the Parliament suffer the *French* King to run away with the Kingdom of *Spain*? They are in a *French* Interest, and have taken *French* Money? The Treaty of Partition was the Occasion of the *French* King's getting the Kingdom of *Spain*, and could these Men imagine that the Parliament, which was not consulted in the making of that Treaty, tho they were actually sitting whilst that Treaty was under the Consideration of the Managers, would advise a War which could be no other than the Result of that Treaty? What could Men within the Bounds of Reason expect more from that Parliament than they perform'd? Was it not a Wise precaution to enable his Majesty to enter into Alliances, and to know the Strength of the Confederacy before they engaged in a War? Tho the Devil be in the *Legionites*, could they or their old Father in 'em, tell what *England*'s *Quota* was to be in the War, before his Majesty had consulted his Allies, and laid the State of the War before his Parliament? Or would they have had us engage in a War upon our own Account, and then trust to the good Nature of

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the Allies whether they would help us or not? The *Dutch* indeed ſent a lamentable Letter to his Majeſty, which his Majeſty laid before the Parliament; and the Parliament upon Honour, without any Obligation, ſent them 10000 Men. The *Dutch* we find cry'd out before they were hurt; however, like good Neighbours, we came to their Aſſiſtance: And what could the *Legionites* expect more of that Parliament? Would they have had 'em declare War for the *Dutch*? were they not capable of doing it themſelves? If their Houſe was beſet with Thieves, whoſe buſineſs was it to oppoſe the Burglars? certainly theirs who own'd the Goods and Chattels, the Plate and Jewels.

The Parliament's not declaring War was the chief Cauſe of the *Kentiſh Petition*: The Poſterity of *Jack Cade* and *Wat Tyler* were extreme angry at the Buſineſs, but much more that the Parliament would neither take their Advice, nor heed their Threats, but committed them for being Sawcy. But that the Parliament infring'd the Right of Petitioning, becauſe they deny'd the *Legionites* the Right of Libelling, is the vaineſt Suggeſtion in the World: For what was that Petition but a Libel and Satyr, a Lampoon and Ridicule upon the greateſt Authority

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in *England*? Parliaments are not to consult their Electors in the great Affairs of the Publick, for their Electors are incapable of giving their Advice in such Matters. In things relating to their particular Boroughs, the Electors may advise their Representatives, for of these Affairs they may be well apprised: But what could a Freeholder know of the State of *Europe*, so as to advise a Parliament, when he had been following the Plough-Tail ever since the Peace? That Grand Jury ought to be Chronicl'd, that could see farther into State Affairs than the King and both Houses, and thought themselves injured because their Advice was not taken.

And if the Parliament has not a Power of committing Criminals, they had as good shut up Shop; for I can assure them if they are so weak as that comes to, they will not long be a Parliament. If they are capable of judging what Laws are fit to punish Criminals, I hope they are capable of knowing when a Person has broken such Laws; and it has been immemorially their Right to punish such Persons, tho the *Legionites* represent this Act as an Innovation, and an Intrenchment on the Liberty of the People. I think that Parliament which punished *Tresilian*, had a notable Power when they caus'd him

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to be executed at *Tyburn* within ſix or ſeven Hours after they met; and one part of his Treaſon was, adviſing the Diſſolution of a Parliament, contrary to the Intereſt of the Realm, which is much the ſame with inſulting a Parliament by an inſolent Petition.

I hope theſe Men would not tie Parliaments to ſtated Forms in their Proceedings, as in the Courts of Juſtice: That Power which obliges others to act by Rules of its own making, may certainly act by what Methods ſeems beſt conſiſtent with its own Wiſdom. Legiſlative Powers are governed in their Proceedings by Cuſtom and Precedents; and when they want either, they can make both. It is on all hands acknowledged, that the Cuſtom of *England* is the Law of *England*; and as ſure a Maxim is it, that the Cuſtom and Uſage of Parliament is the Law of Parliament. Now to convince our *Legionites* that it has been the Cuſtom and Uſage of Parliaments to commit Perſons for being ſawcy, and medling with Matters under the Conſideration of Parliament, I ſhall preſent them with two Inſtances in their own dear *Salary Parliaments*.

Mr. *John Salisbury* who printed the *Flying Poſt*, was ſo peremptory as to affirm, That the *Che-*

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quer Bills would pass at a small Discount. The Business of the *Chequer* Bills being then before the House, the House esteem'd it an insolent Intermedling with their Business, and for the same he was taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, where he a long time continued a Prisoner to his great Charge. Now what he wrote was Matter of Truth, for the *Chequer* Bills did pass at a much greater Discount than he mentioned in his Paper; but not one word of what the *Kentish* Men said in their Petition has prov'd true.

My next Instance is the Case of Mr. *John Rye* a Merchant of *London*, who held a Brewhouse in *Goodmans fields* in the Name of another person. The Commissioners of Excise had very barbarously treated Mr. *Rye* upon the account of the said Brewhouse; insomuch that he was forc'd to petition the House of Commons as his last Resort for Justice. In his Petition and Case he mentioned one of the Commissioners of Excise by Name, who was a Member of the *House of Commons*, and had done him the greatest Injustice. This the House judg'd to be a Breach of Privilege, and for the same he was committed to the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms; and his Petition was never considered, nor his

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Grievance ever redreſs'd: Before he was ſet at Liberty it coſt him near 100 *l.* beſides his Loſs of Time and Neglect of Buſineſs, which he bore at his own Charge, without a Collection by a Factious Club at *Mercers-Chappel*. Now if a *Legionite Parliament* had Power to commit a Gentleman barely for mentioning the Name of a Mercenary Member, without hearing the Matter of Fact, I hope an *Engliſh Parliament* has Power to commit perſons that inſult them in the midſt of their Debates for the common good of the Realm. But theſe *Legionites* are the ſtrangeſt Creatures in the Univerſe, what is the higheſt Juſtice in themſelves is the greateſt Injuſtice in others; and ſo vain and peremptory are they, that nothing can be well done that is not of their own acting; and ſuch Conjurers do they pretend to be, that if their fooliſh Humour don't take place, *Ruit Cœlum*, the World is juſt at an end, and our Iſland is ready to be drown'd in the Ocean.

To paſs over many other things that might be ſaid in Vindication of a Parliament, which was as able to vindicate it ſelf as any I have yet known, I ſhall proceed to conſider the Continuation of the *Legionite Plot*.

As ſoon as the Parliament was prorogued, and the

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the *Kentiſh* Men ſet at Liberty, the *Legionites* aſſembled the Heads of their Tribes, where it was carried, *nemine contradicente*, that the five *Kentiſh Priſoners* ſhould have the Thanks of all the Factious Houſes in *England*: And then it was reſolv'd that Money be collected to make a noble Treat for the ſaid worthy Members, in honour of their gallant and generous Enterprizes, and in deriſion of that Parliament who had ſo unjuſtly confin'd 'em; and accordingly ſome of the Sheriff-makers of *London* were ordered to collect the ſaid Money, which I am told they did to the value of 200 *l.* tho ſome they importun'd to join with them had more Wit than to do it. And to compleat the Show, that it might look ſomewhat Majeſtick, the Ballad-maker of *Whitehal* was ordered to compoſe ſome Lines to the Laud and Praiſe of the five *Kentiſh Worthies*; which he did with like ſucceſs, as when he and the Parſon rebell'd againſt King *David*, and broke his Lute, and murder'd his *Pſalms*.

Things being thus ordered, the Guinea-droppers for the Feaſt meet at *Mercers-Chappel*, where all things are ready, Bak'd, Boil'd and Roaſt, and Cod and Calves-head in abundance. But when the five Worthies entered, Lord, what a ſtir there was! *Jove* when he appears in an Aſ-

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ſembly of the Gods, cannot have more Homage paid him: The Cits were grown mere Courtiers, and none could have thought their Hams had been ſo ſupple. Next the Worthies was placed their Secretary of State, the Author of the *Legion Letter*; and one might read the Downfal of Parliaments in his very Countenance. Beſides thoſe admitted to the Feaſt, Fame had brought a numerous Croud to be Spectators; the Journeymen and Apprentices ran for one whole Day from their Maſters; this was e'en as bad as a Lord-Mayor's Show; hither came the good Man and good Woman, who brought her Child along with her, and went home very well ſatisfy'd, and thank'd God that her Child had ſeen a *Kentiſh Worthy*.

But after the Teeth had done their Duty, the Tongues went to work, and nothing was ſpoken but in praiſe of the *Heroes*, and condemnation of the Parliament; the moſt Diſſenting ſqueamiſh Stomach preſent could drink off its Glaſs to the Health of *Cinque-Quatre*, *i. e.* to the five *Kentiſh Worthies*, and the four *Impeached Lords*: It was reſolved, *Nemine contradicente*, that the Parliament ſhould be diſſolv'd, and that the five *Worthies* ſhould be choſen in the next Parliament, two of them for the County, and the others for the moſt

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most considerable Corporations in *Kent*.

Never any Accident happen'd more opportunely in favour of a certain Party, than the Death of the late K. *James*; and as if they and the *French* King had made private Articles at the *Treaty of Partition*, his declaring the pretended *Prince of Wales* at that Juncture, did their Plot a wonderful piece of Service. For tho the Succession was already settled in the Protestant Line, which Act effectually extinguish'd the Hopes of the *Young Pretender* to the Imperial Crowns of these Kingdoms: Yet this Presumption of the *French* King's gave the *Legionites* occasion to fill the Nation with Jealousies and Fears; and these Fears were the more heightned, by insinuating into the Populace the Nation's imminent Danger by a Parliament they said was not in the King's Interest, and which did not the Sessions before mind the King's Business; tho indeed the Constitution of an *English Parliament* was not intended for that end and purpose, they are constituted, appointed and chosen to mind the Peoples Business, they are the Guardians of the Peoples Liberties, and in Parliament are obliged to pursue the best Methods for the security of the Realm, which things no Parliament ever yet prosecuted with greater

Wiſdom, more Fidelity and Courage than this Parliament we are ſpeaking of, and I think they were in duty bound to neglect all Buſineſs of a contrary Nature to it.

This was the happy Minute which they imbrac'd to ſhew a publick Reſentment of the Nation's diſaffection to this Parliament. The old trade of Addreſſing is begun, againſt the pretended *Prince of Wales* one word, and two againſt the *Parliament*. But never any wiſe King yet rely'd upon popular Addreſſing, they being incapable by Addreſſes to judg the true Senſe of a Nation, for never yet one 8*th* part of the People ſign'd ſuch Addreſſes, which are generally promoted by Men deſigning and ambitious, forward and willing to make a Noiſe in the World, and ſome profitable Bargain with the Prince they addreſs. And it has been often obſerv'd that Addreſſes have ſpoken the wrong Senſe of the Matter; *Richard Cromwel* found this a Truth by woful Experience, as did alſo King *James*, when theſe very *Legionites* addreſs'd him and his *Welſh Cub*, and in a few months after ſent both of 'em packing. I think *Lauderdale* was much in the right on't, when he told K. *Charles* II. that Addreſſes were fit for nothing but to wipe his Royal A---.

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However, according to the desire of their Hearts this good Parliament is dissolv'd; which tho it was a great surprize to many who lov'd their Country, and the Liberties of *England*, yet the *Legionites* seem'd no more elevated at the news, than at the other happy Accidents had befallen them in their Attempts against our Constitution; so that their evenness of Temper plainly demonstrated it was no new thing to them, and the provision they made against the good Time, plainly shew'd their knowledg when it would be.

There is but one thing now remaining to get their Plot effectually executed, which is to chuse a new Parliament for the Turn, as they term it. To effect which, besides their old Methods of Lying, Railing, Bribing, *&c.* they have recourse to Libelling and Stigmatizing such Members of the late House as stood most in the way of their Arbitrary Designs: Hereupon a *Black List* is printed of the Names of such Members as they would have left out at the next Election; and this List was very carefully by the Party dispers'd throughout the whole Nation. Certainly a greater piece of Villany was never perpetrated in these parts of the World; for in this *List* were inserted the

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Names of the moſt eminent Patriots of their Country, ſuch as had been in all Reigns in no Intereſt but that of the Peoples. Which *Liſt* (tho the Deſign of it were villanous) would I have enrol'd in the Records of this Kingdom, to the immortal Honour of thoſe truly venerable Names, to the encouragement of their Poſterity to like virtuous Actions, and to let future Ages ſee what a large Roll of Worthies we had in the Houſe of Commons, who preſerved our Rights when our Liberties were in the greateſt danger, and moſt likely to be loſt.

Their pitching upon ſuch Men to expoſe 'em as Enemys to the King and the preſent Government, was the cleareſt Indication of what they intended; for they ſtruck at ſuch Men as never turn'd their Back in the Houſe upon a good Vote, and ſuch as were never mercenary nor brib'd into a Court Intereſt, either by Place or Penſion; at ſuch they ſtruck, as by their large Patrimonies and great Shares of the Land of this Iſland could not in any wiſe be ſuſpected to be in a *French* Intereſt, and at ſuch as no good King can have the leaſt reaſon to miſtruſt, and whom every good King will honour and eſteem. Could there be any thing in the World more invidious, more villanous and mali-

malicious, than to accuſe the Honourable Speaker of that Houſe of Diſaffection to his Majeſty, of being in a *French* Intereſt, of taking *French* Money, *&c.* who is deſcended from a Generous Stock, that has born our Country the beſt Fruit; and who, beſides his own perſonal Merit, Worth, and Fidelity, which might juſtly ſecure him from the Reproaches of malicious Tongues, has ſo large a Stake in the Hedg, as to put him out of the Danger of the Temptation of *French* Gold? To any one acquainted with the Proceedings of the late Reigns, it muſt ſeem a ſtrange Turn now to have the worthy Families of the *Harleys* and *Foleys* ſtigmatized as Enemies to their Country, and as being in a *French* Intereſt, eſpecially to be thus repreſented by the Diſſenting Preachers, who in a great meaſure owe their Liberties to them, and others nam'd in their *Black Liſt*; and had they not a few days ago join'd their Intereſt to throw out a Clauſe, the Nonconforming Preachers would have been obliged to ſwear to ſupport a Church from which they diſſent. I am ſure theſe Preachers deſerv'd no ſuch Kindneſs at their Hands; and had they either Grace, Honour, or Honeſty, they would bluſh to ſee their Calumnies rewarded with good Services, by Gentlemen whoſe Reputations they had ſo long attempted to murder.

What could more affect our Liberties, and endanger the Conſtitution of our Parliaments, than to create a Miſtruſt in the Common People, that their Repreſentatives were going to ſell their Country to the *French?* and impudently to affirm that they had taken Mony of Count *Tallard* the *French* Ambaſſador, as Premiums for that purpoſe; and all this done under the dark Diſguiſes of Libels, when the Authors have not as yet had the honeſty to attempt the Proof of it againſt

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againſt any one particular Member? God forbid but thoſe guilty of ſuch Crimes ſhould be brought to puniſhment. But 'tis intolerable to have Patriots aſpers'd by Villains to the Ruin of our Conſtitution: Calumnies of the like nature procured the Fate of the Great *De Wits* in *Holland*, who were the beſt Patriots ever that Country knew; and like theirs would have been the Fate of theſe *Engliſh* Patriots, had the *Legionites* Strength been anſwerable to their Malice.

But how falſe ſoever theſe Aſperſions are in themſelves, the Party thought it neceſſary for the finiſhing their Plot, to ſend them into the Countries when the Writs were iſſued from the *Crown-Office* for the Electing a New Parliament. Very diligent were they in Lying, Bribing, and Calumniating; they were only mortify'd at the unhappy Accident in *Kent*, in not getting one of their Five Worthies elected, when they had ſo fairly promis'd the People to have them all Members. This was a fair Diſcovery of one of their Lies, when they told the People thoſe Worthies were the greateſt Men, and had the beſt Intereſt in the County. But to ſalve this Sore, and make good this Failure, *Tom Double* comes out of *Glouceſterſhire* with News, that Mr. *How* had loſt his Election; and having heard that Mr. *Hammond* and Dr. *D' Avenant* were quite routed, they concluded they had gain'd their Point, that they had got a Parliament for their Turn: And ſeeing by Lies they had routed, as they ſaid, one Parliament, they took upon them to provide Rules for the other to walk by. I ſhall take no notice of the *Hornbooks* they gave ſome of the Members; for my part I ſhould not care to be a Member upon ſuch Terms: I ſhall obſerve their finiſhing Stroke upon the Parliament.

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The Commons in the laſt Parliament had impeach'd Four of their Friends, and had committed others, they were now reſolved to be even with 'em, and as many of the Commons were doom'd that way; the Perſons they aim'd at had never been imploy'd in publick Offices, and therefore could not be impeach'd of Imbezeling the Nation's Mony; they had never been of the King's Council, and therefore could not be impeach'd of *Partition Treaties*, and of adviſing *Illegal Grants*; but they had been in *London* when Count *Tallard* was at Court, and therefore might be impeach'd of taking *French* Mony. They did not care whether the Matter of Fact were true, provided the Perſons were impeach'd; by this means they would have been committed to the *Tower*, and ſo kept from the Service of the Houſe the whole Seſſions. 'Twas no matter how ſcandalous the Evidence was, provided they obtain'd their Ends, otherwiſe they would never have engaged their Brother *Fuller* to accuſe ſo many worthy Members of both Houſes. This was their New Plot againſt our Parliament; for *Fuller*'s Accuſation is the ſame with theirs, both in reſpect of Perſons and Crimes: and it is notoriouſly true, that the *Legionites* have ſupported him in that Affair, and had he ſucceeded as they wiſh'd, we ſhould have had another Treat at *Mercers-Chappel*, and have had as fine a Picture for *Fuller* as we had for the *Kentiſh Worthies*: But the Cauſe and the Patrons of it are alike infamous, and all good Men abominate both.

The Parliament being choſen, the chief Thing to be conſidered is, the Choice of a Speaker: The old Speaker was calumniated by the Party, and a thouſand Lies were rais'd againſt him to keep him out of the Chair. We may, I hope, expect a more favourable Opportunity (when the People of this Nation ſhall have recovered

 their

452 their Senſes) to give the World an account of the Methods us'd to keep this Honourable Perſon from being the Mouth of the Houſe this Seſſions: but certainly no Age can parallel the clandeſtine Practices made uſe of upon that account, which ſhews the earneſt Endeavours of a Party amongſt us to ruin our Conſtitution.

And tho the *Legionites* loſt their Point in reſpect to a Speaker, yet their hopes of obtaining ~~their End~~ are not yet quite extinguiſhed; for whoever frequents the Factious Coffee-Houſes in the City, and obſerves the Talk of thoſe Men, may find they rely more upon the Army to be raiſed as a Support to their Cauſe, than to the Confederacy. The Heads of this Faction, who are the Modern Whigs and many of the Diſſenters, are not in themſelves formidable, as being of no Principles, and conſequently of no Courage, and therefore have endeavoured to gain the brainleſs Mob on their ſide, who corrupted in Judgment, will venture without Fear or Wit. But of all the miſchievous Creatures among us, the Impudence of the Foreigners is to be admired, who the laſt Seſſion entred themſelves under the *Legionites*; for whoever at that time us'd the Publick Houſes in *Spittle-fields* and neighbouring Places, might have heard the *French* Vagabonds rail at the Parliament, with as much aſſurance as if like the *Kentiſh Worthies* they had been their Maſters. At the time when the Difference was betwixt the two Houſes, I heard ſome of theſe Foreigners at a Coffee-houſe near *Devonſhire-ſquare* ſay, That they had in *England* 100 thouſand *French* would join with the King againſt the Parliament. By all which we may ſee what a miſerable Condition the *Engliſh* Nation is in: Our Armies are engaged in the Quarrels of Foreigners abroad, whilſt we have an Army of them at home in our very Bowels ready to deſtroy our Conſtitution.

We

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We have a Court that ſpeaks *French*, in the ſame Livery with that at *St. Germains*, mourning after the Herſe of the late K. *James*. Foreigners are poſſeſs'd of Places of the greateſt Profit and Truſt in the Kingdom, and by laviſh Grants are becoming Lords of the Soil, whilſt our Parliaments can hardly maintain their Conſtitution againſt the Inſults of Native and Foreign Enemies. Under theſe Circumſtances, what, ye *Engliſh* Men, will become of your Antient Rights, your Free Cuſtoms and Liberties, which if once you loſe, you will be the moſt miſerable People upon Earth?

And after what has been ſaid on this Subject, would it not become the Wiſdom and Honour of a Houſe of Commons to puniſh the Abettors of ſuch a Plot, as meant the Deſtruction of their own and the Peoples Rights? This Plot was of a far more dangerous nature than that of the Gunpowder Treaſon; *Guido Faux* deſign'd the Deſtruction but of one Houſe of Commons, but theſe Men deſign'd the utter Extirpation of all ſuch lawful Aſſemblies, and conſequently of our Civil Rights. But 'tis hop'd that the Wiſdom and Courage, the Unanimity and Zeal of this Houſe of Commons in providing, not only for our own Safety, but likewiſe for that of all *Europe*, and in maintaining their own Rights, as they repreſent the braveſt People in the World, will abundantly confute the groundleſs Calumnies of an ill-deſigning Party.

THE END,

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